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Your support inspires future champions!

[See a complete listing of our 2011 donors.](#) A special thanks to our [2011 Women & Public Policy Luncheon Sponsors.](#)

Donor Dave Behrendt keeps alive his wife's dedication to supporting women and girls



“My wife, Mary, had specified before she died that she wanted her remains to be cremated and her ashes to be “scattered in an appropriate place.” Mary’s daughters and I did that. But that meant there was left no specific, physical monument to her and her life. That fact led me to the idea of creating a named fund for Mary within the Women’s Fund, to perpetuate her name and memory into the future. It was a simple, pleasant thought that means a lot to me.

Mary had long been an admirer and advocate of the Women’s Fund, so as the father of three daughters I decided that reinforcing her efforts would be an especially fitting tribute to her. **In supporting the unrestricted Mary Weber Behrendt Fund within the Women’s Fund, I feel confident that her priority on behalf of women and girls will be most effectively perpetuated.**”

Leadership

Our 2011 Board of Directors

Eloiza Altoro (Vice Chair) Jackie Boynton, Eva Chess, Sandy Cunningham, Trish Hansen, Sue Hickey, Juli Kaufman, Mary Jo Layden, Missy Levit, Martha Love, Renee Messing (Board Treasurer), Kim Metcalf-Kupres, Nancy Peterson, Robin Reese, Jennifer Schilling, Michelle Sieg, La Toya Sykes, Anne Tidmore (Board Chair), Beth Weckmueller

Jackie Boynton: Board Member and Member of the Grants Advisory Committee (GAC)



“I am involved because women need to be able to develop their own funding base in their own right and an umbrella group like the Women’s Fund spreads the word and has more potent outreach—greater strength in being able to represent many different women's organizations that all have been vetted for their social change focus.

I give because I trust the perspective of the deliberations [of the Grants Advisory Committee] and work with the nonprofits. It is an efficient way to contribute, especially since there are new groups every year and I also know that the endowment will grow and be available for the future for women's organizations.”

Grantmaking

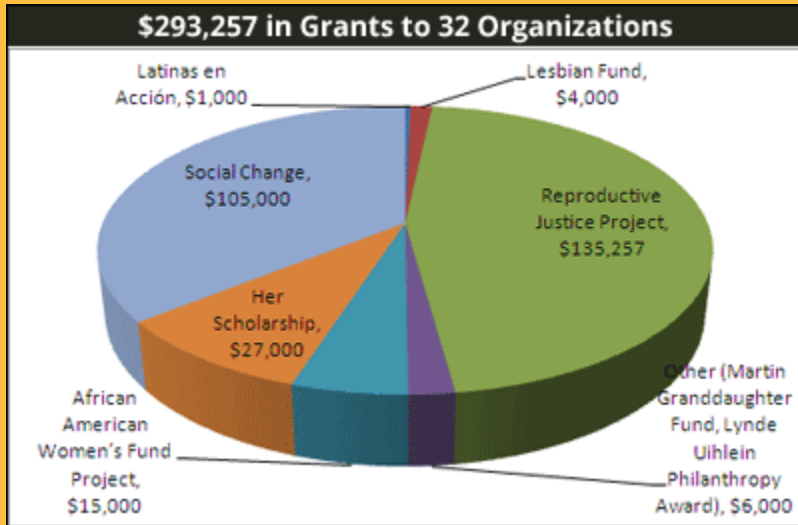
We are proud of the work undertaken by [2011 grant partners](#) whose efforts were designed to remove barriers and systems that perpetuate inequality and oppression. This approach moves the conversation further “upstream” and targets issues beyond immediate social service needs.

✓ **The first grants totaling \$10,000 were made in 1989. Today, our grantmaking totals \$2.5 million.**

Our grant programs included [Social Change Grantmaking](#) and our Cultures of Giving programs:

- [African American Women’s Fund Project](#)
- [Her Scholarship](#)
- [Latinas en Acción](#)

- [Lesbian Fund](#)
- [Reproductive Justice Project](#)
- [Viv Ncaus: A Hmong Women's Giving Circle](#) (new in 2011!)



Social Change is More than the Sum Total of Grants




[Voces de la Frontera](#), a Women's Fund Social Change grant partner, integrates leadership for young women into every aspect of its work because strong leaders know how to push for change in the community. One young Milwaukee woman recently gained national notoriety as a spokesperson for deferred action for childhood arrivals. Lizeth Zorrilla, a freshman at Marquette University, got her start with Voces' Youth Empowered in the Struggle (YES!) campaign. She has also served on Voces' board of directors. **“Once we see leadership qualities in a person, we immediately give them an opportunity to grow,”** says Voces' Program Coordinator for New Sanctuary Movement Nancy Flores. It is this dedication that resulted in women like Lizeth leading

the recent 100,000 person march in Milwaukee to bring about greater awareness of immigration issues.

Voces development director Lesley Salas states, “Milwaukee is so lucky to have a strong women’s fund. **It’s easy to say you serve women and girls but harder to have dedicated funds to advance women and girls.** It’s given Voces an opportunity to expand in an area long overdue--in women and girls.”

Her Scholar Sylvia Zaal emphasizes how education pays off in the long run

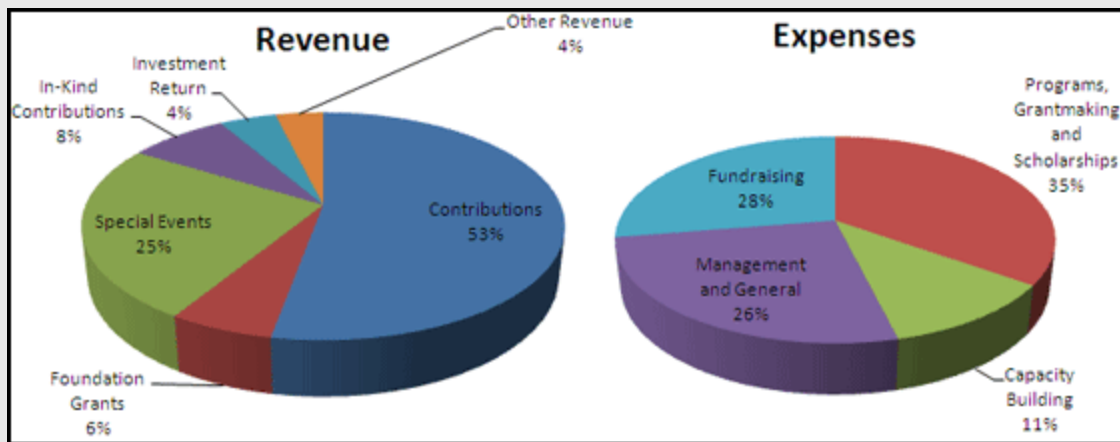
 Over 18 years of supporting low-income women 35 and over through college scholarships, the [Her Scholarship Program](#) has witnessed a 100% graduation rate!



“I believe in the power of women helping women has made a huge difference to my educational accomplishments,” says Her Scholar, Sylvia Zaal. Sylvia will be graduating this year from Alverno College and will be working on building a nonprofit organization to empower children in underserved schools through art education. When Sylvia, mother of a five-year old was laid off from her job a few years ago she had to choose between taking on another full time job and completing her undergraduate degree. She choose the latter because, in her words, “education pays off in the long run.”

Financials

Click here for our [Statement of Financial Position](#) [pdf].



A Call to Action!

Margaret Henningsen, Executive Director



One of the most famous literary works in the world is *A Tale of Two Cities* written by Charles Dickens in 1859. Over two hundred million people have read those poignant opening lines, “It was the best of times, it was the worst of times.” Those words still apply today. In 2011, it was the best of times as we celebrated our 25th anniversary and continued to be the leader in strategic social change work. But, it was also the worst of times as we experienced a decline in financial support – the direct result of our economic downturn; and women faced unprecedented economic conditions that threatened to jeopardize the strides made. Undaunted, we continued forward in 2011 with a renewed sense of purpose that includes updating our strategic plan and conducting a five year Impact Evaluation in 2012.

I hope that after reviewing our 2011 Annual Report, you are inspired to support us with a donation. We are committed to pushing forward social change for women and girls to create the best of times.

Donate Now! Every donation adds up to sustainable and impactful change in our community.

Here are a few ways you can make a difference:

- Make a one-time gift ([online](#) or via [snail mail](#))

- Create a [recurring gift](#). You choose the dollar amount for a monthly charge to your credit/debit card.
- Honor a significant person in your life through a [Memorial or Tribute Gift](#).
- [Make a Pledge](#) that will be paid in monthly, quarterly, or yearly installments.
- Give at Work! If you make a United Way gift, you can designate the Women's Fund of Greater Milwaukee as the recipient of your gift. The Women's Fund is an unaffiliated eligible United Way Agency. Donor Choice #88533
- Deferred Giving. Include us in your will or trust, name us as the beneficiary of your IRA, 401(k), or other qualified retirement plan, name us as the beneficiary of your life insurance plan(s). Please contact us for additional ways to include us in your planned giving strategy.
- Securities, which can be transferred into the Women's Fund of Greater Milwaukee Inc. Holding Account at Robert W. Baird & Co., Inc., #3112-1047.

Note: Our legal name is the "Women's Fund of Greater Milwaukee, Inc." and our Federal Tax ID Number is 20-3514894.